

Lake Claremont. At present there are from 4 to 6 pairs on the Lake, and by the end of September two pairs had ducklings, one brood of 4 and one of 5.

—DAVID and MARK HUTCHISON, Swanbourne.

Wanderer Butterfly Sightings in Western Australia (September 1971 to May 1972).—In September 1971, I published a paper (*W. Aust. Nat.*, 12: 25-27) on the occurrence of the Wanderer Butterfly, *Danaus plexippus*, in Western Australia. Since then, the following sightings of this butterfly have been reported to me.

Wembley Downs, 22 February; Woodlands, 23 February; Wembley, 5 March; Riverton, 21 March; Kalamunda, 22 March; Palmyra, 22 March; Cottesloe, 1 April; Kalamunda, 6 mi. E. of, 9 April; between Toodyay and Northam, 15 April; Armadale, 23 April; Darlington, 23 April; Mt. Yokine, 25 May.

The above sightings concern one or two butterflies on single days. It is perhaps still too early to decide whether the Wanderer is increasing in numbers and breeding range around Perth and in parts of the south-west.

—L. E. KOCH, Western Australian Museum.

Sightings of the Aquatic Fern, *Salvinia auriculata*, in the Canning River.—On August 28 and September 14, 1972, *Salvinia auriculata* was observed in Aquinas Bay, Canning River, a region subjected to brackish estuarine conditions in summer. Earlier in the month it was observed washed ashore further west at Point Mt. Henry and the river stretches approaching Canning Bridge.

Appearance of this bouyant aquatic fern followed calm still days, the plant apparently drifting downstream with the influx of freshwater after winter rains. Such a sighting has not been reported in the last 11 years.

The abundance of the plants indicates that *S. auriculata* must be spreading in the upper stretches of the river, past the Riverton Bridge, where year round aquatic conditions are fresh.

Such drift plants did not survive in this region of the river and are usually washed ashore during following windy conditions.

N. SAMMY, Aquinas College, Manning.

Frequency of Leg Damage in Gulls.—Some large flocks of Silver Gull, *Larus novaehollandiae*, were observed near sundown on the south-east beach of Pink Lake, four miles north of Esperance on the 23rd and 24th of January, 1972. Here they assembled after flying in from the ocean beaches before moving across to roost on a mudflat at the eastern end of the lake. It was noted that a very high proportion of the gulls were standing on one leg. A representative section of the flock was counted, and of 68 birds, 29 appeared to be one-legged. Closer observation of the birds as they took off in flight, or were thrown off balance by the wind, indicated that perhaps a fifth of the gulls standing on one leg were in fact two-legged, but behaved as though they were too lame to rest their weight on both legs for any length of time. One or two proved to be two-legged without any obvious signs of lameness, and they may have been resting on one leg for preference. The leg damage seemed to be commoner in adult birds than in birds with juvenile plumage, and a count of 18 juveniles showed only three one-legged individuals.

Similar counts were made by one of us (L. E. S.) during the second week of February at a number of beaches on the west coast with the following results: Crawley Bay, one one-legged bird among 42; Bunbury, no one-legged birds among 55; Busselton, no one-legged birds among 30; Mandurah, three one-legged birds among 94.

It is usually assumed that gulls lose a leg while swimming on the sea as a result of attack by fish. These observations strongly suggest that this type of predation is considerably more intense in the Southern Ocean near Esperance than it is in the Indian Ocean between Perth and Busselton,

and the distribution of damage between adults and juveniles suggests that the high rate of predation has been continuing for at least a year, and probably much longer.

—F. MONTGOMERY SAUNDERS, E. H. SEDGWICK,
and L. E. SEDGWICK.

The Rainbow Lorikeet (*Trichoglossus moluccanus*) in Perth, Western Australia.—On 31 March 1968 I heard and saw a pair of strange lorikeets flying westward over Wembley. They were too large for *Glossopsitta*. The sun momentarily caught the red breast of one bird, confirming my suspicion that they belonged to *Trichoglossus*. The birds flew close together; their plump bodies, rapid wing-beats, direct unwavering flight, and occasional screeching call-note at once distinguished them from all local parrots of similar size.

From that time until December 1971 I have received a dozen reports of one to six large lorikeets in certain suburbs of Perth, viz. Crawley, Shenton Park and Daglish. Most of the observations were in the grounds of the University at Crawley. The most outlying record was from Gooseberry Hill, where two birds were seen perched on a Marri (*Eucalyptus calophylla*) on 11 April 1972. The birds in the metropolitan area were seen to feed at the flowers of the Lemon-scented Gum (*Eucalyptus citriodora*), Marri (*E. calophylla*), Red-flowering Gum (*E. ficifolia*) and Coral Tree (*Erythrina indica*).

Only one observer (Mr. Robert Humphries) noted the colour of the neck-band. It was clearly not red, which precludes the Red-collared Lorikeet (*T. rubritorquis*) of northern Australia, from the Kimberley Division east to northern Queensland. Presumably the present birds are the Rainbow Lorikeet (*T. moluccanus*) of eastern Australia, south from Cape York to Victoria and southern South Australia.

Because of their vigour and aloofness, I believe these birds are not escapees from captivity but reached Perth unaided from south-eastern Australia. The nearest population of Rainbow Lorikeets is that of Eyre Peninsula, 1,200 miles east of Perth. Most of the intervening region is well wooded with eucalypts and melaleucas, flowers of which should sustain west-bound lorikeets. The least favourable tract Rainbow Lorikeets would have to cross is the one to two hundred miles of sparsely wooded country round the head of the Bight. Such a crossing, however, should not be difficult for strong-flying birds like these. But what would impel them to cross such a relatively inhospitable tract? One possibility is that most eucalypts failed to flower in south-eastern Australia during the great drought of 1967.

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—G. M. STORR, Western Australian Museum, Perth.

On Egg Deposition by Cuckoos.—In this journal, 12 (3), February 1972: 69 appears an article under the title "Egg Deposition by Golden Bronze Cuckoo in a Yellow-tailed Thornbill's nest", which contains information that I feel requires further comment.

Whilst it is my belief that photographic evidence will be necessary to finally and conclusively prove the method of placement of eggs by cuckoos into domed nests, certain physical facts cannot be ignored, as they may have been by those who hold to the view expressed by Robin Hill (*Australian Birds*, 1967, p. 117) and repeated in the above-mentioned article.

These physical facts are:—

(a) Some dome-shaped nests have long and steeply upward sloping entrance tunnels leading to the egg chamber, particularly so in Australia in the case of the genus *Gerygone* and to a lesser extent the genus *Acan-*